

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAN SA 03868 112251Z

64

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-20 MC-02 OMB-01 ACDA-19 EB-11

IO-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 DRC-01

/171 W

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R 112230Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3910

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

USCINCSO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 3868

E.O. 11652 - GDS

TAGS: MASS, PFOR, ES, HO

SUBJECT: GOES PURCHASE OF ISRAELI AIRCRAFT

REF: TEGUCIGALPA 3837

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

1. CONCERNING HONDURAN APPREHENSION ABOUT GOES PURCHASE OF JET AIRCRAFT IN ISRAEL EXPRESSED IN REFTEL, WE OFFER THE FOLLOWING. ON THE BASIS OF THE ONLY OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY THE GOES ON THE SUBJECT, THE MOD ON SEPTEMBER 21 STATED CLEARLY THAT THE GOES DECIDED TO PURCHASE ISRAELI AIRCRAFT. ALSO, PRESIDENT MOLINA IN A PRESS CONFERENCE OCTOBER 2 IS REPORTED TO HAVE CONFIRMED THAT EL SALVADOR HAD PURCHASED FIGHTERS, TRAINERS AND TRANSPORT PLANES FROM ISRAEL. THUS, WE MUST ASSUME THAT THE GOES AND ISRAEL HAVE ENTERED INTO A PURCHASE AGREEMENT ALTHOUGH NO DETAILS  
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PAGE 02 SAN SA 03868 112251Z

HAVE BEEN REVEALED AS TO NUMBERS, TYPES, COSTS OR

DELIVERY DATES. ALSO, WE DO NOT KNOW HOW MIDEAST DEVELOPMENTS MAY AFFECT IMPLEMENTATION CAPABILITIES OF ISRAEL. HOWEVER, EVEN BEFORE THE OUTBREAK OF THE WAR, EARLIEST ESTIMATED DATE FOR ANY DELIVERY WAS MARCH 1974 (CONTRARY TO ALLEGATION OF HONDURAN OFFICER, NO ISRAELI AIRCRAFT HAVE BEEN DELIVERED TO DATE. INDEED, THE ONLY AIRCRAFT DELIVERED IN RECENT MONTHS WERE FOUR T-41 AIRCRAFT SOLD BY THE US GOVERNMENT.) GIVEN THE TRAINING NEEDS FOR MECHANICS, AND PILOTS, IT WOULD SEEM UNLIKELY THAT THE GOES WOULD HAVE ANY JET OPERATIONAL CAPABILITIES PRIOR TO MID-1974 IF THE ISRAELI DEAL IS CONSUMATED.

2. USMILGP IS CURRENTLY IN THE PROCESS OF DESIGNING ITS FY 1975 TRAINING PROGRAM AND WILL HAVE TO QUERY THE MOD ABOUT AIRCRAFT ACQUISITION AND TRAINING PROGRAMS FROM ISRAEL IN ORDER TO COMPLETE ITS OWN PLANS. AS REQUESTED BY US CSAF, WE WILL ALSO BE REMINDING THE MOD THAT CURRENT A-37 OFFER EXPIRES AT THE END OF NOVEMBER. WE WILL REPORT ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION DEVELOPED FROM THESE CONTACTS. MOSKOWITZ

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**TAGS:** MASS, ES, HO  
**To:** SECSTATE WASHDC GUATEMALA MANAGUA SAN JOSE TEGUCIGALPA USCINCSO TEL AVIV  
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